

What is claimed is:

1. A method of inhibition of nitric oxide synthesis which often occurs in hypotension and shock comprising: administering a small but nitric oxide production inhibiting effective amount of an S-alkylthiol to a patient as an antagonist of S-nitrosothiols.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the S-alkylthiol is selected from the group consisting of S-ethylcysteine, S-methylcysteine, S-methylcysteamine, S-ethylcysteamine, S-ethylglutathione, S-methylglutathione, S-methylcoenzyme A, and S-ethylcoenzyme.

3. The method of claim 1 where in the S-alkylthiol is selected from the group consisting of S-ethyl-L-cysteine, S-methyl-L-cysteine, S-ethylglutathione, S-methylglutathione, S-methylcysteamine, S-ethylcysteamine, S-methylcoenzyme A and S-ethylcoenzyme A.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the S-alkylthiol is a pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.

5. The method of claim 2 wherein the S-alkylthiol is a pharmaceutically effective salt form.

6. The method of claim 3 wherein the S-alkylthiol is a pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein administration is by a method selected from the group consisting of oral, parenteral, enema, and topical.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the dose ranges from 100 mg.

9. A composition for use in inhibition of nitric oxide synthesis which often occurs in hypotension and shock, comprising:

a small but nitric oxide production inhibiting amount of an S-alkylthiol in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. The composition of claim 9 which includes conventional pharmaceutically additives selected from the group consisting of flavorings, excipients, stabilizers, effervescent agents and antioxidants.

11. The composition of claim 10 wherein the conventional additives are less than 100% by weight.